



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr. • United States Attorney

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JOHN YEMBRICK

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

(713) 567-9388

**FEDERAL PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICER CHARGED
WITH MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO FEDERAL OFFICERS**

McALLEN, TX – Long-time McAllen Federal Pretrial Services Officer Juan M. Cantu, 51, of Edinburg, has been arrested and charged with making a false statement to a federal officer. Cantu, arrested by FBI and IRS agents during the early morning of April 18, 2006, was ordered released later that day by United States Magistrate Judge Felix Recio on a \$50,000 bond upon posting \$7,500 into the registry of the court. United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle stated that the arrest of Cantu was prompted by the filing under seal of a criminal complaint on April 13, 2006. The complaint was unsealed today.

In a Brownsville federal court today, Cantu waived his right to a preliminary hearing on the complaint. Based on this waiver, United States Magistrate Judge Felix Recio found sufficient evidence to refer the matter to a federal grand jury to consider an indictment on a charge of making a materially false statement to a federal agency or officer.

Allegations in the criminal complaint and supporting affidavit allege that on April 21, 2005, Cantu, a U.S. Pretrial Services officer assigned to the McAllen office, falsely stated to a deputy United States Marshal that he had no information in regard to an investigation being conducted by the United States Marshals Service. This investigation was being conducted in an attempt to locate a convicted drug trafficker being sought on a federal warrant issued on February 25, 2005. Cantu was asked specific questions, according to the complaint affidavit, in regard to information that could assist to locate the fugitive, but failed to provide any such information.

However, the complaint affidavit also alleges that DEA agents had seen Cantu meet with the fugitive in the McAllen area on least three occasions prior to the April 21, 2005, meeting with the deputy United States Marshal. Additionally, Cantu is alleged to have had extensive telephone contact with this fugitive. According to the complaint affidavit, none of this extensive contact with the fugitive was disclosed by Cantu to the deputy marshal conducting the fugitive investigation.

The investigation leading to the filing of federal charges was conducted by agents of the McAllen Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with assistance from the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations Division, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the United States Marshal's Service, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry Eastepp.

A complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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